

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over the U.S. Patent to Owings.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over the U.S. Patent to Owing in view of the U.S. patent to Lockard.

Also, the drawings, the specification and the Abstract of the Disclosure are objected to.

After carefully considering the Examiner's formal objections and rejections, applicants submitted Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings with the proposed corrections, amended the specification, amended the claims and the drawings.

It is believed that the above mentioned changes answer the questions raised by the Examiner in his formal objections and satisfy the Examiner's requirements, and therefore the formal objections should be considered as no longer tenable and should be withdrawn.

In connection with the Examiner's rejection of Claim 1, the broadest independent claim on file over the art, applicants cancelled Claim 1 without prejudice.

The Examiner's indication of allowability of some claims has been gratefully acknowledged.

In connection with this indication, Claims 2, 3 and 5 have been rewritten in independent form and therefore it is believed that these claims are now in allowable condition.


The dependent claims include Claim 4 which depends on allowable Claim 2 and Claims 6-10 which depend directly or indirectly on allowable Claim 5. These claims include the allowable features of the independent claims on which they depend, and they should be considered as being allowable condition as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is

respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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